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CHAL-0308  
Copy 3 of 5.

2 September 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT : Briefing of USAF Bosses on CHALICE Operations

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1. On 29 August 1958, [ ] and the undersigned conducted a briefing on the recent Chinese mission in the office of Lt. Gen. Dean Strother. The meeting was attended by Maj. Gen. Smart, Maj. Gen. Walsh, Maj. Gen. Watson, Maj. Gen. Fates, and Col. Geary.

2. The chart showing targets covered and Chinese reaction was first briefed, followed by the same selective photos shown at the White House. All were extremely well pleased. I pointed out that the Air Force [ ] had accomplished the film processing and all of the preliminary analysis and that since the night of 25 August HTAutomat had been working on a 24-hour basis to accomplish the full interpretation and analysis. Further, that these results were passed to the services at the same time they became available.

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3. These officers were then briefed with regard to the project proposals for Russian overflights as well as the tactical coverage of China. The mission selected by the President [ ] and the reasons why he liked this mission best were then covered. The reaction of the officers being briefed was that in their opinion this mission [ ]

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[ ] all were pleased that a mission was approved.

4. I told them that I had been informed that continued Chinese missions required persuasion on the part of Gen. Cabell and Mr. Bissell but that they were successful in gaining approval. I advised the officers that Gen. Twining had attended the meeting with the President.

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5. Future plans of the project as they apply to operations [ ] were then covered. [ ]

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[ ] the President will be briefed on the activities to date and approval will be sought for [ ]

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[ ] The chart showing typical missions under consideration was shown with emphasis placed on the short amount of time our aircraft would be under radar surveillance, as well as the importance of the target areas to be covered.

USAF review(s) completed.

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6. Gen. Walsh commented on some previous SAC peripheral and penetration sorties and in response to a question from him was advised that [redacted] would be shown to the ARC and coordinated in the normal fashion with Gen. Preston's shop. The undersigned had a later conversation with Gen. Walsh and will discuss this with Mr. Bissell.

7. Gen. Preston was unable to attend the briefing due to pressure of Far East operations, but he was briefed by Col. Geary the previous day.

[redacted]

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WILLIAM BURKE  
Colonel, USAF  
Deputy Director, DPS/DCI

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CHAL-0309  
Copy 3 of 6.

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2 September 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR : Mr. Robert H. Macy  
Chief, International Division  
Bureau of the Budget

SUBJECT : Project CHALICE

1. The following information is in regard to our recent conversation relative to continued CHALICE activities.

2. As you are aware, the original assignment for employment of the special aircraft for overflight activities was made to this Agency. This was based on the covert nature of the proposed overflight activities. At that time it was the intelligence estimate that the Soviets would have the capability to intercept the special aircraft by approximately the fall of 1957. Since it would then not be possible to continue these operations on a covert basis, the plan was for all aircraft, equipment and military personnel to revert to the Air Force.

3. As the fall of 1957 approached, actual operating experience caused revisions to intelligence estimates extending the useful life of the special aircraft for overflight beyond that date. The present estimate is that the Soviets will not have an effective intercept capability until January 1960. In view of the continued life span of the special aircraft, and the fact that the majority of the targets in the USSR had not been covered, it was agreed to extend the program under the direction of this Agency, the termination of which to be dictated by the situation. This was decided at a White House meeting which was attended by high level representatives of the agencies involved.

4. This Agency is prepared to turn over CHALICE assets to the Air Force at such time as the validity of the facts dictating the original assignment to this Agency have expired. It should also be noted that proposed agreement, outlining the circumstances and procedures for transfer of these assets to the Air Force, has been developed by this Agency and has been sent to the Air Force. We are awaiting their concurrence or counterproposal. Briefly, this agreement is designed to provide for the rapid and efficient turnover of CHALICE assets to the Strategic Air Command in the event SAC executes its Emergency War Plan.

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5. The above information may fulfill your recent request. If not, please request any additional data needed for your purpose.

SIGNED

WILLIAM BURKE

Colonel, USAF

Deputy Director, DPS/DCI

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